

## THEO 5130 DRAFT SYLLABUS

Fall 2023, 3 Credit Hours

(Syllabus subject to change)

### I. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Armida Belmonte Stephens, Theology Teaching Fellow

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Office phone: 773-244-5228

Office hours: Wednesdays 10:30AM to 12 noon; Thursdays 12 noon to 3:00 PM CST; by appointment

### II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the methods and topics of moral reflection and action in their biblical, historical and theological context. The course focuses on new life in Christ as embodied in the church for the world. (from Catalog).

**Additional Description:** Paul says in II Corinthians 5:17-19, “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.” New life in Christ is based on the gift of faith and the life and work of Jesus Christ. It is celebrated in the event of being baptized into the body of believers and manifest in an ongoing life of faith. New life in Christ includes the experience of God’s love and forgiveness; it includes the practices of love and justice as central to Christian moral formation; it includes drawing from scripture and the tradition to help us live creatively. This course will use the framework of new life in Christ and the church’s ministry of reconciliation to explore Christian ethics as both Christian formation and the church’s response to “the least of these.” (Matt. 25)

### III. TEXTS

- Wells, Quash, Eklund eds., *Introducing Christian Ethics* (Wiley Blackwell, 2017) ISBN: 111915572X
- Kelly Brown Douglas, *Resurrection Hope: A Future Where Black Lives Matter* (Orbis, 2021) ISBN: 162698445X
- Miguel De La Torre, *Doing Christian Ethics from the Margins* (Orbis, 2014) ISBN: 1626980756
- Samuel Wells, *Improvisation: The Drama of Christian Ethics* (Brazos, 2018) ISBN: 1540960110.
- Weekly articles and essays provided in PDF

### IV. ASSESSMENTS

#### A. Preparation and Participation (20%)

Please arrive prepared to actively engage in discussion. Respectful and considerate behavior toward the professor and other students is expected. Class and small group conversations should be comfortable spaces that encourage constructive contributions from everyone. To that end, please come ready to listen, share space (take turns

speaking), ask questions, and respect the views of others.

**B. Short Case Study Papers (20%)**

You will have the opportunity to write two short papers (~1000-1200 words each) in response to case studies presented in the course readings. Pick from any of the case studies that is most relevant to your ministry context.

**C. Roundtable Discussion (30%)**

Work with two or more of your classmates to prepare a roundtable conversation applying Christian ethics to a pressing issue or question for the church and society (sign-up on the first day of class). See the “Roundtable Discussion” document on Canvas for more information.

**D. Final Research Paper (40%)**

The final research paper (~3000 words) will be on a topic/question of your choosing, but must be different from the case studies or roundtable discussion. See the “Final Paper Guidelines” document on Canvas for more information.

**V. GRADING**

**Weight Given to Course Requirements for Grading**

Participation	20%
Case Study Papers	20%
Roundtable Discussion	30%
Final Paper	30%

\*Grade percentages operate as follows: A (93+), A- (90-92.9), B+ (87-89.9), B (83-86.9), B- (80-82.9), and so on.

**VI. ADDITIONAL COURSE GUIDELINES**

- University email will be used for notifications and updates. It is your responsibility to check your email or have it forwarded to your preferred email address.
- Rubrics for each of the assessments can be found on Canvas.
- A rule of thumb is that for every hour of graduate-level coursework, you will spend up to another two to three hours of time working on assignments. So, a three-hour course will result in up to nine hours per week on assignments.

**VII. INCOMPLETE GRADES**

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically, pregnancy, illness, personal and family issues, military assignment, etc.), a student anticipates they will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student may request a grade of incomplete from the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request. Overscheduling and/or lack of self-discipline are not considered extenuating circumstances. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, student and instructor will submit the incomplete grade form and the grade for that class will be listed as “I” until

the last day of the following semester. If coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of “I” will automatically be changed to “F.” For the full policy, see page 15 of the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#).

#### **VIII. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating will receive a failing grade on the assignment and are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on a quiz or exam.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

For additional information, see the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), p. 25–26.

#### **IX. ACCOMMODATIONS**

Your experience in this class is important to me. North Park is committed to creating inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have already established your accommodations, please share your accommodation letter with me so we can discuss how your accommodations will be implemented in this course. If you have not yet established services and have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations, please email the Disability Access Specialist or contact by phone (773-244-5737). Student Engagement facilitates the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations.

#### **X. TITLE IX**

Students who believe they may have experienced sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking should contact the Title IX Coordinator (773) 244-5664 or [TitleIX@northpark.edu](mailto:TitleIX@northpark.edu) to learn more about reporting options, resources, and support services.

As members of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty members are private resources meaning we are legally obligated to share information about the behavior reported above with the University’s Title IX coordinator. If you are unsure whether you want your concerns disclosed to the Title IX Coordinator, we encourage you to contact Counseling Support Services at (773) 244-4897 or [counseling@northpark.edu](mailto:counseling@northpark.edu). Please refer to North Park’s [Safe Community](#) site for reporting, contact information, and further details.

#### **XI. COURSE SCHEDULE: AVAILABLE ON CANVAS**